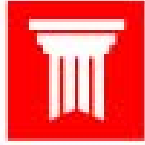


25
years



The Center for
Public Integrity

910 17th Street, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006-2606
April 17, 2015

Submitted via foiaonline.regulations.gov

National Freedom of Information Office
FOIA and Privacy Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. (2822T)
Washington, D.C.

Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal
Request #EPA-HQ-2015-004761

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am an attorney and represent the requesters, Ms. Jamie Hopkins and the Center for Public Integrity, in this matter. By this letter, the requesters appeal the March 18, 2015, determination that their “request does not reasonably describe the records [they] are seeking in a way that will permit EPA employees to identify and locate them,” and the April 14, 2015 closure of their request.

The records sought by the request, dated March 3, 2015, were:

All correspondence reflecting any communication between the EPA and the offices of Sen. Barbara Boxer, Sen. James Inhofe, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Sen. Thad Cochran, Rep. Jim Bridenstine, Rep. John Shimkus, Rep. Fred Upton and Rep. Hal Rogers, including but not limited to letters and e-mails, and dated between calendar year 2012 and the date you process this request

EPA has, in response to FOIA requests, routinely produced logs of correspondence from members of Congress to EPA. See, e.g., FOIA requests with tracking numbers EPA-HQ-2015-004846, EPA-HQ-2015-003970, EPA-HQ-2015-002805, EPA-HQ-2015-002116, and EPA-HQ-2015-000461. Records responsive to the present request should be readily identifiable using these same correspondence logs.

If this will clarify matters, you may interpret the present request as a request for all correspondence identified in the logs as coming from one of the specified members (Sen. Barbara Boxer, Sen. James Inhofe, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Sen. Thad Cochran, Rep. Jim Bridenstine, Rep. John Shimkus, Rep. Fred Upton, or Rep. Hal Rogers) and for all correspondence sent to those members in response, from January 1, 2012, through the date you process this request.

Incidentally, the April 14 closure letter is incorrect in asserting that the agency had “not heard back from” the requesters. Ms. Hopkins sent several emails and left several voice-mail messages for Mr. Larry Gottesman, none of which were returned.

In light of the information above, we ask and expect that EPA will promptly produce the requested records.

Thank you for your attention to this appeal.

Sincerely,

Peter Newbatt Smith
Research Editor and FOIA Counsel
Center for Public Integrity
psmith@publicintegrity.org
202-481-1239